

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01

/055 W

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R 011052Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6799

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1449

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IT UR

SUBJ: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON P.N. DEMICHEV

REF: A. MOSCOW 18376; B. MOSCOW 1040; C. MOSCOW 1336

1. ITALIAN EMBOFF BRIEFED US ON PROTOCOL VISIT PAID TO MINCULT P.N. DEMICHEV, WHO IS ALSO A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CPSU POLITBURO, ON JANUARY 30. IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY DEMICHEV IS IN LINE WITH THAT GIVEN ON DECEMBER 9 WHEN AMBASSADOR PAID SIMILAR CALL (REFTEL).

2. DEMICHEV PROVED WELL BRIEFED ON ITALIAN/SOVIET CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND SAID THAT HE WANTED TO IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT AS MINISTER OF CULTURE HE HOPES TO FIND NEW COMPOSERS AND TO MAKE SOME COMPROMISE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND MODERN MUSIC. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT DEMICHEV WAS SPEAKING OF GENERAL DOMESTIC POLICY, NOT SIMPLY ONE APPLYING TO SOVIET AGREEMENTS WITH ITALIAN COMPOSERS AND PERFORMERS.

3. DEMICHEV THEN ABRUPTLY SWITCHED FIELDS AND ASKED FOR A BRIEFING ON THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ITALY WHICH
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THE AMBASSADOR GAVE IN FRESH DETAIL SINCE HE HAD RECENTLY

RETURNED FROM THERE. DEMICHEV THEN SWITCHED TO THE ROME CONFERENCE ON FOOD AND POPULATION, OF WHICH HE SPOKE HIGHLY. NEXT HE RAISED THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTIO AND SPOKE OF IT AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT DEPUTY PREMIER KIRILLIN WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE PROBLEM.

4. THE ITALIANS SAID THAT DEMICHEV PRESENTED THE IMAGE OF A LEADER WHO WAS STILL IN GOOD STANDING IN HIGH PARTY COUNSELS AND WHO WAS NOT NARROWLY CONFINED TO INTERESTS SOLELY WITHIN HIS MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO. HE ALSO PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF A MAN WITH HIS OWN PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES. HE MADE NO REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV DURING THE VISIT AND WAS SELF-CONTROLLED, CONFIDENT, AND RELAXED.

5. COMMENT: FAILURE OF THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS TO REPORT DEMICHEV'S RECEPTION OF EITHER AMBASSADOR STOESEL DECEMBER 9 OR AMBASSADOR VINCI JANUARY 30 MAY BE INDICATIVE OF DEMICHEV'S CURENT POLITICAL STATUS. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF POLITBURO ARE ROUTINELY REPORTED AS ARE SOME DEMICHEV'S OTHER APPOINTMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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